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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/527,953	03/14/2005	Stefan Ziegler	WLAN.P-003	2386
57380 7590 01/16/2008 Oppedahl Patent Law Firm LLC P.O. BOX 4850 FRISCO, CO 80443-4850			EXAMINER O HERN, BRENT T	
			ART UNIT 1794	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 01/16/2008	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docket-oppedahl@oppedahl.com

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/527,953

Applicant(s)

ZIEGLER ET AL.

Examiner

Brent T. O'Hern

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                      |                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____                                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____                                                          | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claims***

1. Claims 1-3 and 5-19 are pending with claims 4 and 20 cancelled.

## **WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS**

2. The 35 U.S.C. 102 rejections of claims 1-3, 5-14 and 19 as being anticipated by Kagi et al. (US 6,821,613) of record in the Office Action mailed 18 July 2007, page 3, paragraph 6 have been withdrawn due to Applicant's amendments in the Paper filed 16 December 2007.
3. The 35 U.S.C. 103 rejections of claims 15-18 as being unpatentable over Kagi et al. (US 6,821,613) of record in the Office Action mailed 18 July 2007, page 7, paragraph 7 have been withdrawn due to Applicant's amendments in the Paper filed 16 December 2007.

## **NEW OBJECTIONS**

### ***Claim Objections***

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 4 the term "are" was deleted and the term "being" was added without any markings indicating such. Appropriate correction is required. Applicant is advised to carefully review all claims to be sure other subject matter has not been deleted to added without proper indication of such.

## **NEW REJECTIONS**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the

art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 1-3 and 5-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the **written description** requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The phrase "the at least three single continuous-fiber profiles along their length extending into different directions with a distance between each other and are running together at a location and are forming a non-flat connecting area" in claim 1, lines 5-7 is **new matter** as Applicant's original disclosure does not have support for the **negative limitation**, specifically the "non-flat connecting area".

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. Claims 1-3, 5-14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kagi et al. (US 6,821,613).

Regarding claims 1-2, and 12, Kagi ('613) teaches a structural component made of long-fiber reinforced thermoplastic material with integrated continuous fiber-reinforcements (See col. 1, ll. 5-6, 29-34, col. 4, ll. 4-8 and FIG-8, #1.), the component comprising

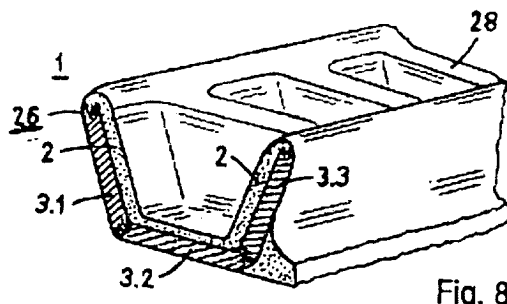


Fig. 8

at least three separate, single individually integrated, shaped continuous fiber profiles having a lengthwise extension being separated from each other (*See FIG-8 and col. 5, ll. 13-19 wherein the profiles are separated by the interfaces at the left and right ends of #3.2. Furthermore, the Examiner interprets separated to include profiles that are connected. Additionally, in Applicant's annotated FIG-1a of Applicant's Paper filed 16 December 2007, Applicant describes profiles 10.2 and 10.4 as being separated from each other at a distance, even though the profiles are in contact with each other as they cross.*);

the at least three single continuous-fiber profiles along their length extending into different directions with a distance between each other and are running together at a location and are forming a non-flat connecting area (*See FIG-8 wherein #3.1 extends upward, slanting to the left and #3.3 extends upward slanting to the right and #3.2 extends horizontally. Furthermore, it is noted that each profile extends in multiple directions. Furthermore, Kagi ('613) teaches multiple non-flat connecting areas including where the profiles directly contact each other and the other adjacent materials that connect the profiles.*);

the at least three single continuous-fiber profiles, at the location where they run together, defining a three-dimensionally developed intersection point (*See FIG-8 wherein the profiles run together and form a three-dimensionally developed intersection point.*);

wherein at the intersection point at least a first continuous-fiber profile lies in an upper plane of the intersection point, at least a second continuous-fiber profile lies a lower plane of the intersection point, and wherein at least a third continuous-fiber profile with a vertical orientation is located between the first and second continuous-fiber profiles

*(See FIG-8 wherein #3.2 is vertical and 3.1 and 3.3 lie in upper/lower planes, respectively, when #1 is rotated by 90 degrees.);*

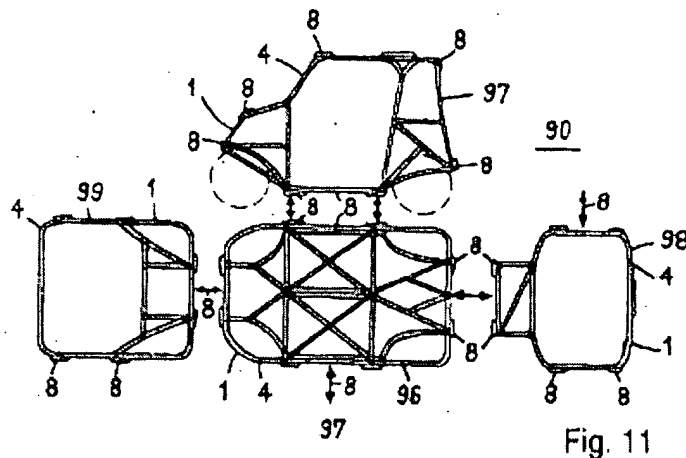
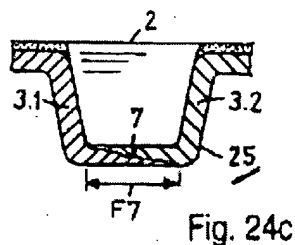
- wherein from the intersection point the first and the second continuous-fiber-profiles along their length are extending into a first direction and the third continuous-fiber-profile along its length is extending into a different second direction *(See FIG-8 wherein #3.1 and #3.3 extend in a lengthwise direction and #3.2 extends in a second thickness direction.)*,

wherein the continuous-fiber profiles are joined together by the long-fiber-reinforced thermoplastic material at the intersection point *(See FIG-8, #2 and col. 5, ll. 13-19.)*.

The phrase **“characterized in that shapes of the long-fiber-reinforced thermoplastic material, or shapes of the continuous-fiber profiles are forming points of introduction of external force”** in claim 2, lines 1-3 is deemed to be a statement with regard to the **intended use** and non-structural **functional language** and is not further limiting in so far as the structure is concerned *(See MPEP 2111.02) and (See MPEP 2173.05(g).)*

The phrase **“characterized in that continuous-fiber profiles are extending between points of introduction of external force”** in claim 12, lines 1-3 is not further limiting since Applicant is introducing non-structural **functional language** into the product claims *(See MPEP 2173.05(g)).*

Regarding claim 3, Kagi ('613) teaches a component characterised in that the three-dimensional intersection points are developed as "X"- "T"- or "L"-shaped *(See FIGs 8 and 24(c) L-shaped and FIG-11, X and T-shaped.)*



Regarding claim 5, Kagi ('613) teaches a component characterised in that the continuous-fiber- profiles are built up out of layers with differing fiber orientations (See FIGs 8, 24(c), 11 and 23(a), layers.).

Regarding claim 6, Kagi ('613) teaches a component characterised in that the long-fiber-reinforced thermoplastic mass comprises an average fiber length of at least 3 mm (See col. 1, ll. 29-34.).

Regarding claim 7, Kagi ('613) teaches a component characterised in that the continuous-fiber profiles comprise a continuous fiber reinforcement made out of glass fibers (See col. 4, l. 8.).

Regarding claim 8, Kagi ('613) teaches a component characterised in that the thermoplastic material of the long-fiber-reinforced thermoplastic mass and of the continuous-fiber - profiles consists of partially crystalline polymers selected from the set

consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene-terephthalate, polybutylene-terephthalate and polyamide (*See claim #7 of Kagi ('613).*).

Regarding claim 9, Kagi ('613) teaches a component characterised in that the continuous-fiber profiles comprise a three-dimensional profile shape (*See FIG-8, and col. 5, l. 13-19, a three-dimensional profile shape.*).

Regarding claim 10, Kagi ('613) teaches the component characterised in that the continuous- fiber profiles comprise a bend, a twist, a fold or a surface structuring in longitudinal direction (*See FIGs 8 and 11, bends, twists and folds of structure.*).

Regarding claim 11, Kagi ('613) teaches a component, characterised in that the continuous- fiber- profiles comprise differing cross-sectional shapes (*See FIGs 8, 14 and col. 9, ll. 40-63.*).

Regarding claim 13, Kagi ('613) teaches a component characterised in that a continuous- fiber - profile with a positioning shoulder, a tensile - and compressive force zone on top and underneath as well as a thrust zone in between is formed, which is positioned in a rib or in a crimp wall of the structural component, and wherein the tensile and compressive force zones are thicker than the thrust zone (*See various configurations and shapes in FIGs 8 and 24(c), and col. 9, ll. 40-63.*).

Regarding claim 14, Kagi ('613) teaches a component characterised in that the continuous- fiber - profiles form a moment - load lever structure with a T-shaped or L-shaped three- dimensional intersection point (*FIGs 8, 24(c), 6b and 7, an L-shape and col. 11, l. 4.*).



Regarding claim 19, Kagi ('613) teaches a component characterised in that the structural component is assembled out of at least two parts welded together (*See col. 5, l. 37.*).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. Claims 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Kagi et al. (US 6,821,613).

Kagi ('613) teaches a component discussed above, however, fails to expressly disclose wherein the structural component forms a single seat back with a belt connection, two-thirds rear seat back with belt connection and lock, a seat shell or a cabin floor, or a supporting structure of a car door with integrated side-crash protection.

However, Kagi ('613) teaches that its structures are used for various vehicle structures such as safety belt anchor point elements in vehicle cabins, load bearing inserts and structural components, or chasis components (*See col. 4, ll. 55-61, col. 1, ll. 41-46 and FIGs 8, 15, 24(c) and 25.*) for the purpose of providing support for demanding load-bearing structural components (*col. 1, ll. 42-43*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time applicant's invention was made that Kagi's ('613) elements for safety belt anchor points and load bearing body components would be used for the above seat backs/seat shell, with belt connection and lock and Kagi's ('613) chasis and load bearing body components would be used as a cabin floor or supporting structure of a car door with integrated side-crash protection.

### ANSWERS TO APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS

8. In response to Applicant's arguments (*pp. 5-10 of Applicant's Paper filed 16 December 2007*) that Kagi ('613) does not teach the amended claims, it is noted that the amended claims are discussed above.
9. In response to Applicant's arguments (*p. 7, lines 1-4 of Applicant's Paper filed 16 December 2007*) that Kagi ('613) does not teach the structure as disclosed in FIG-1a, it is noted that patentability of Applicant's claims are based on what Applicant claims, not what may be illustrated in a figure. Furthermore, it is noted that Applicant describes profiles 10.2 and 10.4 as being separated from each other at a distance, even though the profiles are in contact with each other as they cross.
10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brent T. O'Hern whose telephone number is (571) 272-0496. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (571) 272-0996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

*BTO*

Brent T O'Hern  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1794  
January 7, 2008

*Nasser Ahmad*  
NASSER AHMAD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
*1/9/08*